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portioned one to another, and that details are, through faults in the style, frequently introduced in an unskillful manner.

H. P. W.

Lois Sociales—Recueil des Textes de la Legislation Sociale de la France. JOSEPH CHAILLEY-BERT and ARTHUR FONTAINÉ.
Paris: Leon Chailley, 1895. 8vo. pp. ix + 407.

THIS is a compilation of laws relating to the laboring classes and the poor of France. It is naturally limited (with slight exceptions) to the period since 1789.

With reference to the subjects and prevailing tendencies of legislation, the whole period is to be divided into two epochs at the year 1841, when a law protecting children against excessive labor in factories was passed by the French parliament, influenced by the example of English factory legislation through several decades, and by the exposure of shocking abuses in many factories. This was the beginning of a new era in French industrial legislation. In the earlier half century the social problems dealt with and the methods of dealing with them were essentially those which had been familiar for generations before the revolution. The restrictive system was even revived in some of its details, as by limitation upon the number of butchers and bakers and by the regulation of prices; legislation, aside from restriction, provided for the relief of poverty by workhouses, *monts de piété*, asylums and insurance against disability and old age, or forbade the raising the prices of necessities of life by monopolies or by withholding goods from market. These meliorative devices were all ancient. Even the *Conseils de Prud'hommes* were not a new conception. With all their pretence of bold logic, the French at the time of the revolution and just after it, offered nothing new toward the legislative cure of industrial evils. They attempted only to correct wrongs in the *distribution of wealth*, through interference with exchange or by aid to the poor. The effects of this legislation upon morality and bodily welfare were only incidental to the purposes of economic well-being. But with the legislation which distinguishes the later era, and of which factory legislation is typical, the order is reversed; here, immediate moral and physical well-being are given the preference, even to sacrificing the direct economic advantage of the laborer. The appearance of this class of laws is more truly revolutionary than the destruction of the guild sys-

tem, as it indicates a fundamentally new conception of the law-giver's relations to the citizen. A second characteristic of this second period is the legalizing of industrial combinations in France as elsewhere. The reformatory legislation of the last half century has not taken place exclusively under any particular form of government. The legislation which marked the transition to the new era was enacted under Louis Philippe, and the overthrow of this monarch retarded a considerable scheme of reform which had been already partly accomplished; while Napoleon III. relied greatly for the permanence of his authority upon his ability to gratify the masses by legislation in their interest, even encouraging the discussion of delicate social questions.

The legislation now in question has often proceeded in an order of time amazingly at variance with the order of importance of the abuses corrected or the advantages gained by the people. The demand of the French reformers for a sweeping, spectacular change, especially if it might be expressed in an impressive formula (like the *Droit au travail*), has sometimes been pressed more urgently and realized earlier than demands less open to objection. It is thus rather startling to find that through all the extravagant legislation of the second republic there remained unrepealed a law (Art. 1781 of the Code Pénal) by which a workman could not testify in contradiction of his master as to the amount of his wages or the share of the year's payments already advanced to him. This remarkable provision survived, not because it was not noticed, but because the legislature refused, after repeated discussions, to repeal it. Article 415 of the Code Pénal, punishing combination to raise wages by striking, also survived the February revolution, to be repealed under the Empire, though it was discussed by the legislature with a view to repeal, on at least four days in the autumn of 1849.

The French laborer now enjoys the fullest liberty of combination to raise wages, provided violence or threats are not employed to bring about a stoppage of work; the day's work in factories is limited to twelve hours, subject to numerous exceptions by administrative regulation on account of peculiarities in certain forms of production; children under twelve years of age may not be employed in mines, factories, etc., and the labor of those under sixteen years and eighteen years is limited to ten and eleven hours respectively. Women may not be employed in such establishments more than eleven hours, or at night, or in underground work; debts to laborers for services are privileged

as against the claims of material men or others upon an employer's property; in a system of postal savings banks 3 per cent. is allowed to depositors; mutual aid societies of France, in happy contrast to the ill-conducted and planless societies of the United States, are subject to careful regulations to make them safe. A. P. WINSTON.

The United States Internal Revenue Tax System. Edited by CHARLES WESLEY ELDRIDGE. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1895. 8vo. pp. iv + 722.

UNDER the present title, Mr. Eldridge has undertaken a collection of the internal revenue laws at present in force. Though not an official publication, the work of editing has been done so carefully that this volume may be taken as representing the revised internal revenue laws of the United States. As one of the editors of the only previous revisions, those of 1873 and 1879, Mr. Eldridge's qualifications for this work were excellent, and he has produced a compilation that will be of great assistance to both the practitioner and the student. It is an authoritative guide to existing law.

The various laws are systematically arranged for reference, with a digest of decisions and rulings, and other important matter. An appendix contains the laws and forms relating to internal revenue practice. The introductory sketch on the history of the internal revenue system since 1791 is accurate, but all too brief.

A. C. M.

Aspects of the Social Problem. By Various Writers. Edited by BERNARD BOSANQUET. London: Macmillan & Co., 1895. 8vo. pp. x + 334.

THIS collection of essays, edited by one of the most versatile of English writers, is the work of three persons besides himself who, as the preface states, "possess prolonged and systematic experience in practical efforts to improve the condition of the poor and . . . have . . . paid careful attention to the methods and principles of social reform." Although the essays were all written on different occasions and for other purposes than association in a single volume, the general characterization of them in the preface is quite evidently true. Emphasis is laid throughout upon the necessity of endeavoring in work of all kinds among and for the poor to conserve and foster the growth of